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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Colombia

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The bill for electoral reforms, under debate by the last National Congress, provides for an Electoral Court which will supervise elections, and which will be composed of prominent Conservatives and Liberals. An equal number of members of these two Parties will be appointed to supervise elections in each department. No other political party or group will be included in these functions.
2. Leaders of the Colombian Communist Party (PCC) believe that the new rules will eliminate the chance of any Party member being elected to office. As a result, they are endeavoring to persuade the Liberal Party to allow the inclusion of a certain number of Communist leaders on the Liberal Party election lists, despite repeated refusals of cooperation. In case of failure, the PCC feels that it must carry on intensive agitation and propaganda among labor organizations, and especially among farm workers. The latter, it is believed, may be easily persuaded to support the Party without understanding the Marxist program, if they are made to feel that the Communist Party is the only one interested in their welfare. Filiberto Barrero, Secretary of Agitation and Propaganda, stated that although workers in the cities are experiencing serious economic difficulties, they can still count on a certain amount of government protection and help, while farm workers are given no such protection and are completely in the power of the capitalistic landowners.
3. Plans have already been made for an intensive campaign among the workers in the Department of Valle del Cauca under the direction of Jose Cardona Hoyos, Lino Gil Jaramillo, and Julio Rincon. The propaganda will emphasize the large number of extensive haciendas in this Department which are almost abandoned and should be immediately divided among farm workers.

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